‘Opie’ arrives
Geology welcomes life-sized model of prehistoric creature

- Between Saturday night and Sunday morning:
  Department chair recounts Gospel music’s roots and branches
- WIU grad wins Pulitzer
- Anniversaries: Psychology 50, African American Studies 40
- Balsamo: Life after retiring from History
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This slim volume by Randy Pausch has had a lasting impact on many campuses

Focus, Vol. 7, No.1; Focus is published twice a year; c/o 114 Morgan Hall, WIU, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455; e-mail BK-Knight@wiu.edu.

Cover photo by Robert Johnson

Produced by authority of the State of Illinois

Spring/Summer 11

Mahalia Jackson “The Queen of Gospel”

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Western’s CAS is made up of 16 departments whose disciplines span the areas of the social sciences, the humanities, mathematics and the natural sciences: African American Studies, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, English and Journalism, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Geography, Geology, History, Mathematics, School of Nursing, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology, and Women’s Studies.

“Focus will inform college stakeholders about College of Arts and Sciences activities and encourage their involvement in the life of the college.”
From the Dean

Interview with WIU’s Dr. Thomas

What are the biggest two or three challenges you face as WIU’s 11th president?

The three largest challenges that I face as the next president of Western Illinois University are: 1) cash flow, 2) deferred maintenance, and 3) maintaining consistent enrollment at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The state continues to owe the University state-appropriated funding, and these are funds that are necessary to operate the University efficiently. The cost of deferred maintenance continues to rise, and the University does not have adequate funds to address all of the deferred maintenance issues on campus. However, WIU has been able to maintain all of its facilities in order to make sure that students are safe and able to receive a quality and well-rounded education.

Currently, our enrollment is stable, and we look forward to having a full freshman class and good transfer numbers in the fall of 2011. We are working with Noel-Levitz, an enrollment management consulting firm, and thus far, the recommendations that have been provided have been successful in attracting quality students to WIU.

At a time when “state universities” have become “state-assisted universities,” how important are public universities to the future?

Public universities have been and continue to be very important for pro-
By Bonnie Barker

Western Illinois University alumnus Mark Konkol, on April 18 learned that he and his reporting team at the Chicago Sun-Times received the highest honor awarded to American journalists – the Pulitzer Prize.

Soon after the news of the Pulitzer Prize erupted throughout the Sun-Times newsroom, Konkol was asked what this meant to him. His response: “This is totally unexpected, and it’s a great thing. I’m just glad that I work with such great people, and it’s about time the Sun-Times got some recognition for the work we do every day.”

Konkol, Sun-Times crime reporter Frank Main and photojournalist John J. Kim won the Pulitzer Prize for local reporting. Pulitzer judges recognized the trio for “their immersive documentation of violence in Chicago neighborhoods, probing the lives of victims, criminals and detectives as a widespread code of silence impedes solutions.”

The impetus for the series of local stories that were published over nine months came from an April 2008 weekend in Chicago when 40 people were shot and seven died. Only one alleged shooter awaits trial. Three others who were shot said they know the shooters, but they refuse to testify. Konkol and Main examined how difficult it is for the police to solve cases because of the prevalent “no snitch” culture in many neighborhoods.

“We spent last summer (2010) burning shoe leather,” Konkol said. “We were telling the stories of what it’s like to catch a killer from the law enforcement perspective, and how difficult that is because of the unwritten ‘no snitch code,’ which they discovered in victims and criminals.”

The award-winning stories and photo essay are available at sun-times.com/pulitzer.

‘KONKOL’S KORNER’

Born and raised in south suburban Chicago, Konkol’s assignments include Chicago neighborhoods and his blog, Konkol’s Korner. He has also covered transportation, courts, Chicago City Hall and Cook County government in his 16-year reporting career.

As a teenager at Thornwood High School (South Holland, Ill.), Konkol was on the football team and was in many gifted classes. He asked his counselor what careers don’t require a lot of math and science, and the counselor handed him a journal of careers and their academic requirements.

“I found journalism had the least amount of math and science,” said Konkol, who then began learning the craft of writing with his first Konkol’s Korner column in the school’s paper, The Arrow.

LINEMAN TO NEWSMAN

The 1991 Thornwood High graduate first chose Culver-Stockton College (Canton, Mo), where he was a two-year starting left guard for the football Wildcats and a communication major.

In 1993 he crossed the Mississippi River to look at Western Illinois University’s academic programs. That’s when he met for-
By Bianca Banti

Whether meeting with groups of prospective students and parents or answering questions from peers, the College’s new Student Ambassadors seem on call all the time.

Introduced this semester in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Student Ambassadors program gives current Western Illinois University students a chance to help incoming freshman, transfer students, or students changing their majors. Student Ambassadors interact with students from their own departments or majors and minors, offering tips, easing concerns or fielding questions.

Student ambassadors also attend family “Discover Western” visits.

“Ambassadors can answer questions and provide information about their major for other students,” said Kristen Johansen, a History major and Chair of the College and Arts and Sciences Student Council.

“We want students to have open communication with other students, either through one-on-one meetings, e-mail or social networks,” she continued. “It depends on the department how much the Student Ambassador is used.”

The program is now implemented in the African American Studies, Biological Sciences, History, Philosophy & Religious Studies, Psychology, and Sociology & Anthropology departments, and could expand to all CAS departments.

Students receive training to fulfill their duties, said Dr. Russell Morgan, a psychology professor and Interim Associate Dean for Curriculum and Student Affairs.

“Students meet as a group with the Student Council Executive Committee for initial training, but then receive individualized training from their department (usually the department chair and academic adviser),” Morgan said. “The training within the department may be a single session, but is more likely to be ongoing as their duties develop.”

Student Ambassadors-to-be are given frequently asked questions that parents or students might ask, and scenarios on how to respond when they don’t know an answer.

“I hope to see students getting involved in their departments, getting to know other students, establishing closer relationships with faculty, and promoting Western as a great university,” Johansen said. “Hopefully, each department will have at least one Student Ambassador and more students will pick majors [there]. I would tell students that the Ambassador program is to provide information. It gets students to talk to other students rather than teachers and advisers; the program is less formal.”

To become a Student Ambassador, a student must be a sophomore or higher and have lived on Western’s Macomb campus at some point of their schooling. A cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0 is preferred. Also, the student must be highly involved in the department they are representing. The training is required, and a two-year commitment preferred.

Participants can benefit, too – even if it’s in the long run.

“The networking and leadership qualities gained through the Student Ambassador program will be important when applying for post-baccalaureate jobs, internships or graduate programs,” said Lacey Buford-Lillard, African American Studies major and Secretary of the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council.

Student Ambassadors earn certificates of acknowledgement and recognition from the College of Arts and Sciences Department.

Among Student Ambassador duties are assisting “Discover Western” tours, like this April event led by Joe Parker.

All CAS departments will take part soon.

“Each department has at least one Student Council representative,” Morgan said. “Next year, we plan to make it part of the Student Council members’ requirements to participate in the Student Ambassador program.”

Banti is a senior Journalism major from Schaumburg with a double minor in Spanish and Fashion Merchandising.
Poli Sci professor awarded Congressional Fellowship

By Bonnie Barker

Janna Deitz, an associate professor of political science at Western Illinois University, is among a highly select group of some 30 professionals nationwide — including just five in the field of political science — accepted into the 2011-2012 American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellowship in Washington, D.C. Other fellowship participants are journalists, doctors, federal executives and international scholars.

The APSA fellowship, founded in 1953, is the oldest and most prestigious congressional fellowship. Its purpose is to give early- to mid-career political scientists an opportunity to learn more about Congress and the legislative process through direct participation. That's a big portion of Deitz's political interest.

“I am very honored to be selected as an APSA Congressional Fellow,” Deitz said. “To witness firsthand the processes of representation and policy-making will be invaluable to my teaching and research.”

Deitz, who is in her eighth year at Western Illinois, hopes to bring an expanded expertise in legislative politics back to the American politics courses she teaches.

“I look forward to the chance to be actively involved in congressional work and to share what I learn with students. WIU has given me the opportunity to mentor many talented students, and serving as a Congressional Fellow will help me be a better mentor for students desiring careers in government, politics and public service,” added Deitz, who is the first political scientist at Western to be awarded this fellowship.

Phyllis Farley-Rippey, an associate professor of political science at Western and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences when Deitz was hired, praised the appointment.

“It is gratifying to see Janna fulfill the high expectations that we had for her when we recruited her to Western,” Farley-Rippey said “She has been an enthusiastic and deeply engaged scholar of the U.S. Congress, and I expect her to make significant contributions to that body in her participation in this very prestigious position of Congressional Fellow.”

Deitz’ nine-month congressional fellowship begins in November with an intensive month-long orientation, during which time Fellows are reading up on senators and representatives who offer Fellows placements.

“It is up to each Fellow to secure his or her own staff assignment,” Deitz said.

The full-time assignments as legislative aides in the House of Representatives and/or Senate may include tasks such as researching issues, writing speeches and news releases, attending committee hearings and drafting amendments.

“Staff assignments begin in January (2012), which provides me the additional benefit of working in a congressional office during an election year,” said Deitz.

The fellowship program also offers additional enrichment opportunities through the bimonthly Woodrow Wilson Seminar Series, in collaboration with the Library of Congress’ Office of Scholarly Programs, which brings in guest lecturers from the Congressional Budget Office to the nation’s top NGOs (Non-Government Organizations). There also is a possibility for a one-week U.S.-Canada Parliamentary Exchange to Ottawa, which provides an intensive comparative study of Westminster versus U.S.-model parliamentary systems. This option is selective and based on available space and funding.

Professor Keith Boeckelman, interim chair of the Department of Political Science, said, “Receiving this fellowship is a testament to Dr. Deitz’s outstanding level of achievement as a political scientist. It will benefit Western students and our faculty alike.”


Her primary areas of research in American politics include legislative politics, congressional elections, women and politics, and campaign finance. Her published work appears in academic journals, most recently on the gender gap in campaign finance, and in edited volumes on congressional elections. Deitz presents papers at national and regional conferences, and is a frequent panelist for politically-themed University and community events. She also provides election analysis for media.

An active member of College of Arts and Sciences and University committees — having served as vice chair of the Faculty Senate, secretary of WIU’s chapter of University Professionals of Illinois, and co-president of Western Organization for Women – Deitz was the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Service Award recipient in 2010.

Deitz earned her Bachelor of Arts degree (1994) in political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her Master of Public Affairs degree (1997) at Western Carolina University (Cullowhee, NC) and her Ph.D. (2004) in political science from the University of Georgia.

Barker is Assistant Director of University Relations at Western Illinois University
Psychology department celebrates 50th anniversary

By Tracy Cruise

WIU’s Psychology department celebrated its golden anniversary in April with social and academic activities for current and former students and faculty.

Special events began with Psi Chi/Psychology Club members handing out free popcorn to current students on a special “Golden Anniversary” celebration weekend April 14-16. That Friday, Dr. Sarah Greathouse, an assistant professor of psychology at Iowa State University, presented a colloquium on Jury Decision Making followed by a reception at the Alumni House.

Greathouse earned a B.S. degree in Psychology and a B.A. degree in Sociology at WIU in Spring 2002.

A Saturday luncheon program featured former department chairs reflecting on the growth and development of the department throughout the half-century. A common thread seemed to be the department’s dedication to student learning and camaraderie.

Dr. Jim Ackil (chair 1985-Dec. 2003) reminisced that WIU’s Psychology department is a place where “people care about one another, are kind to one another, they respect one another, and they help one another.”

Dr. Frank Fulkerson, a faculty member hired in 1968 and twice chair of the department (1976-1985 and July-Dec 2008), was honored with the establishment of the Frank E. Fulkerson, III Distinguished Alumni Award to be presented to alumni who distinguish themselves and bring honor to the department for scholarship and/or service to the community.

The weekend’s culminating event may have been a “Super Woodsie” held at Dr. Eugene and Melissa Mathes’ farm. This was a casual family event attended by current students, faculty and alumni where guests roasted hot dogs and marshmallows, and children enjoyed pony rides.

Many alumni expressed fond memories of attending the semi-annual “Woodsies” or “Lakers,” as they were called when they were held at Lake Argyle State Park north of nearby Colchester.

In all, about 150 alumni, emeriti faculty, and current students and faculty took part in the three-day celebration.

The WIU Psychology department began in 1961 under the leadership of Dr. James Joyce, who earned his degree from the Ohio State University and specialized in personality studies and social-learning theories. The Department of Psychology first had offices in Sherman Hall, offering Introduction to Psychology courses on the third floor and other classes held in Tillman Hall. The first degree was conferred in 1963 and the General Experimental Master’s degree was created in the same year.

In 1964 the department relocated to the Psychology Building, which was a rustic house near the football field.

In 1969, the Psychology department moved into the newly built Life Sciences Building, now known as Waggoner Hall. John Morton, one of the first faculty members, recalls that the building was developed with no windows on the first floor because Joyce was conducting sensory deprivation experiments at the time. These early years saw the establishment of the School Psychology Specialist Degree (1968), the Psychology Clinic (1969), and the Psi Chi Honor Society Chapter (1969).

Twenty-nine new faculty members were hired during this period. Joyce served as chair of the department until 1973, when Dr. Walter Flakus took over. He remained chair until 1973.

The department offered more applied options in the early 1970s with the creation of the Clinical/Community Mental Health Master’s Program (1972) and the Crisis Hotline Service (1971). Dr. Jim James was chair from 1973-1976, and during this period the undergraduate research conference, ILLOWA, was formed as a collaborative effort between WIU, Monmouth College, and Knox College.

Fulkerson chaired the department from 1976-1985 before leaving to become Associate Dean for the Col-
lege of Arts and Sciences. He recalls that “this was a time in which faculty were very productive and graduates were getting jobs – good jobs.”

Rapid growth similar to that at the beginning of the department occurred when Ackil became chair in 1985. He hired 22 new faculty, and the department moved from a faculty advising model to a central adviser with the hire of Kitty Miller. The number of majors has increased consistently since this change. The School Psychology Specialist program earned national accreditation and several faculty received grants to enhance facilities and training. Newer faculty developed research labs and a more concentrated effort was made to incorporate undergraduate students into research. The fruits of this labor continue to be evidenced in research presentations at Undergraduate Research Day and regional and national conferences.

Upon Ackil’s retirement, Dr. Virginia Diehl was selected to serve as chair from 2004-2008. The curriculum expanded with the development of the neuroscience and forensic psychology minors and the initial planning for a substance abuse certificate program. Accreditation was awarded to the Clinical/Community Mental Health Master’s Program. Since 2003, Norman and Carmelita Teeter have generously contributed to the Psychology department through their financial support of graduate assistantships and training and technology resources.

Norm is a 1967 graduate, and in 2006 they set up an endowment to support the department and international programs. Diehl returned to the faculty in 2008 and Fulkerson came out of retirement to once again serve the department as chair.

It was acknowledged during the celebration weekend that the department has a strong presence and reputation on the WIU campus, and that many of the accomplishments are due to the perseverance of the faculty in maintaining a balance of teaching, research and service. The numerous academic support personnel, including part-time faculty, office managers, the academic adviser, and the animal care technician all were credited for keeping the department functioning efficiently for the last 50 years.

Under the current leadership of Dr. Steve Dworkin, the department consists of 26 tenure-track faculty members (13 men and 13 women), two adjunct faculty, and about 400 majors – the fifth largest major at WIU. The department offers three graduate degrees in General Experimental, Clinical/Community Mental Health and the School Psychology Specialist, and three minors: Neuroscience, Forensic Psychology and Gerontology.

Throughout this Golden Anniversary year, reflections on WIU’s Psychology department’s development and expansion over the decades – by students, faculty, retirees and colleagues across the campus – sparked thoughts of what great achievements might be made in the next half-century. Certainly, what comes will result from the respect, caring and kindness that Ackil recalled as a key trait of the first 50 years.

Dr. Cruise is a Professor in the Department of Psychology.
National Fossil Expo offers trip back in time

By Zak Krause

In early April, hundreds of people were transported from 21st century Western Illinois University to Earth 100 million year ago.

It was National Fossil Expo 33, “the largest fossil show in the country that exhibits fossils exclusively.”

Held in WIU’s Western Hall and sponsored by the Mid-America Paleontology Society since 1979, the annual event this year showcased a wide variety of fossils and objects, from small teeth and insects to a life-sized replica of a stegodon huanghoensis (the largest of all elephant-like animals).

David Jones, one of the exhibitors, said he has been attending the event since 1980. He conceded that he’d lacked focus as a University of Minnesota student; then he enrolled in a Geology course. He said his life took a turn for the better afterward.

“Once I got into fossil hunting, I had a whole new direction in life,” he said.

Jones said he developed his passion for fossil hunting in the early 1960s and has been making plaster latex molds of fossils for 38 years. Jones displayed his specialty at this year’s expo.

Another exhibitor, Jenny Damrow, said variety is, indeed, the spice of life – even life from millennia ago.

“What is great about the show is the diversity of objects and experts that specialize in different areas of fossils,” she said.

Specializing in creating jewelry from raw gems, stones and fossils, Damrow said she has a great passion for what she does, and loves coming to the show to see what everyone else is passionate about in the field of fossils.

“Everybody here – it’s their love, it’s what they do,” Damrow said.

For some vendors, fossils are a career; for others, it is a hobby. Whatever the level of involvement, the show each year provides an opportunity for people who love fossils to share their passion with a new crowd of people. This year’s expo attracted people from all over the world as well as the Midwest and west-central Illinois.

The fossils on display come from all over the planet, too.

Vendor Joe Devera, who said he likes to find and sell fossils as a hobby, brought fossils from as near as Illinois and Ohio, and as far away as Madagascar and Peru to the event.

Krause is a junior Art major from Palatine who writes for the Western Courier, where another version of this story appeared.

Other show lets rock-hounds glimpse world beneath the surface

By Robyn Winker

Most students left campus for Spring Break in March, but hundreds of local residents, faculty and university staff who stayed in Macomb had an opportunity to experience a distinctive educational experience that was fun, too – especially for those interested in prehistoric rocks, fossils from extinct animals, stunning gem stones and the world beneath the surface.

The 31st Annual Rock, Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show was in WIU’s Union Grand Ballroom on March 12-13, organized by GeodeLand Earth Science Clubs, Inc. (GESCI) of west-central Illinois.

The show’s theme was “Igneous, Metamorphic and Sedimentary Rocks” and in addition to rocks, gems, minerals and fossils, artifacts from various sites were displayed by dealers, who also showed jewelry and special equipment.

“Some of [the fossils] can be from various areas in the U.S. and one notable place is Morocco,” said GESCI program chairman Tony Kapta.

Hobbyists, artisans and scientists also demonstrated skills in shell engraving, fossil preparation, egg and rock painting, scrimshaw, geode cracking, glass bead-making, lampworking and faceting gemstones.

There also were fluorescent displays and lapidary demonstrations.

“Lapidary is making stones into usable forms, usually used for jewelry, so the demonstrations [showed] how this is done,” Kapta said.

The GESCI has had a rock and mineral show annually since forming at WIU in 1981.

Winkler is a senior Journalism major from Orland Park who writes for the Western Courier, where another version of this story appeared.
By Bryce Dexter

On a recent trip to China with a faculty colleague from Westminster College in Fulton, Mo., Macomb native and WIU graduate Kurt Jefferson offered the liberal arts to the largest country in the world. As they visited various high schools and counselors throughout China, they realized they were some of the first foreign representatives from a small liberal arts college – a new concept to the Chinese.

Jefferson visited three large cities, including Beijing. He said he was given quite a bit of freedom.

“Our materials were not sifted through in our briefcases at all going through airports,” said Jefferson, who served as a College of Arts and Sciences Professor of the Day in March. “It’s this culture that’s really starting to open up.”

Jefferson said he saw quite a bit of growth and new development in China, much of it involving American and European based businesses, especially in the big cities.

“You would never know you were in China,” he added. “You would think you were somewhere in the United States when you are visiting most of these places.”

However, he added that China still has a long way to go.

“It’s a government that, as it’s developing economically, its authoritarian system is trying to figure out how loose they want to become,” Jefferson said.

A Macomb native, Jefferson literally grew up on the WIU campus. He attended the on-campus Laboratory school and in 1988 earned his bachelor’s in Political Science at Western. His parents are Dr. Robert and Sally Jefferson, both WIU faculty from 1965-89. Dr. Jefferson served as the chair of the WIU marketing/finance department and business dean from 1984-89.

After attending the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he received his master's in 1989 and Ph.D. in Political Science in 1993, he taught there from 1988-93 and at nearby Stephens College from 1992-93. Jefferson has taught mainly on European and international politics during his 18 years at Westminster, a college of about 1,000 students.

Currently Professor and Chair of the Political Science Department at Westminster, he was named Director for the Center for Engaging the World in the Churchill Institute there, overseeing bachelor’s programs in Transnational and International Studies, global programming, the college’s model United Nations program, and a Cultural Abroad experience for students known as the “Take a Friend Home” program.

Jefferson has also traveled to numerous countries, representing Westminster in France, Germany, Britain and Jordan. In 2008 and 2010, he served as visiting professor of global business and politics at ICN Graduate Business School in Nancy, France, where he taught French executive MBA students and Russian and French graduate students in the double magistratura program at ICN (in conjunction with the Moscow Institute of International Relations in Russia).

His lectures and courses focused on “Russian-American relations in an age of globalization.”

In 2008, Jefferson was voted by the Westminster Alumni Council as one of the “Top Ten Legends of the Faculty,” a distinguished list of Westminster’s top faculty since 1945. He also has won a student government teaching award.

Due to Sir Winston Churchill’s famous “Iron Curtain” speech (given at the school’s gymnasium on March 5, 1946), Jefferson has worked and interacted with numerous notable political figures, including commentator and one-time presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan, former U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III, consumer advocate and presidential candidate Ralph Nader, U.K. Prime Minister John Major, Poland’s President Lech Walesa, U.S. Senator and one-time United Nations Ambassador John Danforth, U.S. Sen. Christopher Bond, U.S. Sen. And former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, Jordan’s Prince Hassan bin Talal, and numerous members of Congress.

Jefferson has written numerous scholarly articles, mainly on Euro-
From printed page to podium, ‘Last Lecture’ is new CAS program

By Danielle Rachford

Randy Pausch gave his last lecture on Sept. 18, 2007, just a month after doctors told him he had three to six months to live. Given to an audience of about 400 people gathered where the computer-science professor worked, at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, his remarks were part of an existing program there showcasing faculty sharing thoughts as if they had one more chance to leave a legacy before passing on.

Pausch had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September 2006 and died in July of 2008 at the age of 47, and a book based on the lecture, co-authored by journalist and Carnegie Mellon alum Jeffrey Zaslow, became a bestseller.

WIU last year selected the book, The Last Lecture (Hyperion Books), as its First Year Experience Common Reading, a core component of FYE activities, which introduce Western’s annual University Theme (this year: “Teaching and Learning for a New Era”) and provide a shared Liberal Arts experience. Each incoming freshman student received a copy of the book.

The College of Arts and Sciences this year instituted its own “Last Lecture” series, organized by the CAS Student Council and its adviser, Interim Associate Dean Russell Morgan, and Dr. Alphonso Simpson Jr., chair of the Department of African-American Studies, gave the inaugural presentation in April.

Pausch began his lecture by apologizing for his lack of depression due to the contentment he had for his life. The rest of his speech highlighted his childhood dreams in a lighthearted and whimsical way – like longing to become Capt. Kirk of Star Trek when he grew up. Stressing that obstacles are good and can be overcome, Pausch’s overall message of chasing dreams was powerful.

Simpson recalled a story about a little boy who stood up in church in front of the entire congregation and declared that he was going to become a doctor in California. After the youngster’s mother told him to be seated several times, he proclaimed, “I’m still standing up on the inside!”

This was Simpson’s launching point. He then deconstructed the word “No” and elaborated on how each day is a journey – a journey in which your heart chooses the destination and your mind designates the map.

In order to properly plan any trip during life, Simpson said, a few guidelines are necessary to reach some success, including pursuing qualified mentors, using every conversation as a practice, allowing others room to change, and, finally, closing doors gently.

Simpson approached his “last lecture” like Pausch in other ways. He spoke of the freedom of childhood dreams and punctuated his ideas with jokes and a corresponding PowerPoint.

Simpson’s demeanor was soothing, calm and to the point. His message was constructive and often humorous.

A key difference, obviously, is that Simpson is in good health.

Envisioned as a feature each semester, the series should become a great way for “students to see their respected faculty outside the formal classroom setting and outside the boundaries of a typical class format,” Dr. Morgan said. “This lecture series is intended to be informal and wide-open in scope.”

Rachford is a senior Journalism major from St. Charles, Ill.
When Western Illinois University President Al Goldfarb accepted the invitation to give a final speech at WIU, the veteran public speaker became a little anxious.

“The idea of what would be my last lecture actually made me very nervous,” he said. “I wanted to make my final speech here at Western not about me, but rather the people that shaped who I am today.”

The long-time president of Western opened his speech in March in the University Union’s Grand Ballroom with that admission.

“For my final speech I chose not to use any media of any sort,” he said. “No images, no PowerPoint presentations. Just me, for better or for worse. I want to focus my speech on my parents. I want to tell of their life experience and how their experiences have shaped me to become the person I am today.”

Goldfarb will retire June 30 after almost 10 years as WIU’s 10th president.

The theater professor and author asked the audience whether they knew, had relationships with, or at least had seen pictures of their aunt, uncles, grandparents or great-grandparents.

“Those of you who raised your hands are very fortunate,” Goldfarb said. “I could not raise my hand to any of those questions. I never knew any of my family. My parents were both Holocaust survivors. My father was the only person from his family to have survived, and my mother and her aunt were the only members from her family that survived.”

Goldfarb said his parents rarely spoke of their Holocaust experiences. His mother, who was 12 years old when World War II started, escaped from the ghetto where she lived as almost all of her neighbors there were either killed or sent to concentration camps.

After the war, his parents moved to the United States and lived in New York. Goldfarb said that his parents had no money, and that his father first pressed clothes and eventually saved up enough money to open up a candy store in Queens, N.Y.

“I suddenly became the most popular kid on the block,” Goldfarb said. “I worked there from the time I was a kid up through college.”

After his parents died, Goldfarb donated all of their belongings from the Holocaust to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Outgoing president offers his own last lecture

Freshman Zoology major Carley Seed appreciated Goldfarb’s candor and memories.

“I thought President Goldfarb’s speech was really inspiring,” Seed said. “It kind of hit home because my grandma was a Holocaust survivor. He made really good points about treating others the way you would want to be treated. I enjoyed it very much.”

There was no finality to Goldfarb’s last lecture, he conceded.

“In the end there is no conclusion to this story,” he said. “My life is still a search, and I will continue to try and discover who my family was and how they lived.”

Kelley is a junior law enforcement and justice administration major from Peoria who works at the Western Courier, where a different version of this story appeared.
African-American Studies

Associate Professor Jo-Ann Morgan arranged for New York photojournalist Stephen Shames to lecture on campus in March. Shames is perhaps best known for his black and white photography of the Black Panther Party, with which he was associated in the late 1960s and ’70s. He was recently awarded the 2010 Purpose Prize for his founding of L.E.A.D Uganda, a program that gives education and entrepreneurial skills to AIDS orphans, former child soldiers, child laborers, and other forgotten children.

Biological Sciences

Associate Professor Matthew Bonnan co-wrote an article on Archosaur Long Bones for Anatomical Record. Bonnan also co-wrote an article on the Sauropodomorph dinosaur for the Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences.

Thomas Dunstan, professor emeritus of biology at Western Illinois University, was named to the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame by the Illinois Conservation Foundation in March. One of the nation’s foremost authorities and researchers on birds of prey, including the bald eagle, Dr. Dunstan taught at WIU from 1970-2007, when he retired as acting director of the Institute for Environmental Studies. Besides developing course work for students to focus on improving wildlife ecology and management, Dunstan worked with state, federal, and non-governmental agencies to protect and expand wildlife habitat – particularly related to bald eagles. He was among the chief proponents of the Elton E. Fawks Bald Eagle Refuge Nature Preserve near Hampton, Ill., and the Cedar Glen Eagle Roost near Warsaw, Ill. His writing ranged from scientific journals to his 1978 National Geographic article “Our Bald Eagle: Freedom’s Symbol Survives.” In a 2007 editorial, the Chicago Tribune singled out Dunstan as “among the bald eagle’s saviors ... a giant of his generation.”

Associate Professor Timothy W. Spier co-wrote on fish habitat in McDonough County’s Spring Lake for Lakes & Reservoirs: Research & Management.

Associate Professor Brian D. Peer wrote “Cooperative Breeding by Red-Headed Woodpeckers” and “Conspecific Brood Parasitism by the Dickcissel,” both for the Wilson Journal of Ornithology. Peer also co-authored two articles for the periodical Auk.

Assistant Professor Andrea Porras-Alfaro co-wrote “Mycorrhizal Relationships of Vanilla and Prospects for Biocontrol of Root Rotts” in the Handbook of Vanilla Science and Technology (Wiley-Blackwell).

Associate Professor Eric Ribbens wrote two articles for Case Studies in Science from the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science, and two articles for the Vasculum.

Ribbens also co-wrote “Can Cacti and Cows Coexist?: Opuntia fragilis in Wisconsin” for Cactus and Succulent Journal.

Assistant Professor Susan P. Romano co-authored “Synthesis of Upper Mississippi River System Submersed and Emergent Aquatic Vegetation; Past, Present, and Future” and two other articles for Hydrobiologia.

Chemistry

Professor Netkal M. Made Gowda co-wrote “An Efficient Platinum-Catalyzed Oxidation Process and Mechanism for the Facile Conversion of Benzoxazoles to Aminophenols” for Chemical Engineering Journal. He also co-authored an article for Synthesis and Reactivity in Inorganic Metal-Organic and Nano-Metal Chemistry.

Professor Jenq-Kuen Huang co-wrote a piece for Food Chemistry and co-authored with Professor Lisa Wen and others “A Novel Secondary Alcohol Dehydrogenase from Micrococcus Luteus WIUJH20: Purification, Cloning, and Properties” for FASEB Journal.

Associate Professor J. Scott McConnell, Wen and others co-wrote “Mutagenicity Evaluation of Metal Oxide Nanoparticles by the Bacterial Reverse Mutation Assay” in Chemosphere.

Professor Thottumkara K. Vinod co-authored “Oxidative Cleavage of Alkenes Using an In Situ Generated Iodonium Ion with Oxone as a Terminal Oxidant” for Organic Letters.

Professor Lisa Wen also co-authored “Monodehydroascorbate Reductase cDNA from Sweet Potato: Expression and Kinetic Studies” for
Botanical Studies.

English & Journalism

Associate Professor David Banash wrote “From Copyright to Copia: Marcus Boon’s Buddhist Ontology of Copying” for Postmodern Culture.

Associate Professor Bradley Dilger co-edited *From A to <A>: Keywords of Markup* (University of Minnesota Press) and wrote “Beyond Star Flashes: The Elements of Web 2.0 Style” for Computers & Composition.

Associate Professor Roberta DiCarmine presented “Bianco e Nero, White and Black: Viewing Interracial Relationships Through Italian Cinematic Lenses” for the Film & History Conference: Representations of Love in Film and Television in Milwaukee in November.

Assistant Professor Everett Hammer presented “The Predisposed Agency of Genomic Fiction” at the American Studies Association in San Antonio in November. He also wrote a piece for Religion and Literature.

Professor Bill Knight wrote “Carl Sandburg’s Advice” for Gateway Journalism Review, wrote entries on journalists Ernie Pyle and George Seldes for *The Forties in America* (Salem Press), wrote three book reviews for Magill On Literature Plus, presented “Sh*t My Sport Says: One-liners, Observations, and Jokes That Reveal Baseball’s History, Heart and Perils” at the 18th Annual NINE Spring Training Conference in Tempe, Ariz., in March, and continued his downstate Illinois newspaper column, which now runs in eight publications.

Assistant Professor Dan Malachuk wrote “American Realism’s Transcendental Other” for *Realism’s Others* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing), wrote “William James at Chocorua: A Northern Forest Philosopher” in *Nature and Culture in the Northern Forest: Region, Heritage, and Environment in the Rural Northeast* (University of Iowa Press), and wrote “Matthew Arnold and American Democracy” for *Symbiosis*.

Instructor Rich Moreno published his first book about the Land of Lincoln: *Illinois Curiosities* (Globe Pequot Press). The author of eight history/travel books, Moreno was editor and publisher of Nevada Magazine for 14 years. He now teaches journalism at WIU and is Director of Student Publications. In August, a followup of sorts, *It Happened in Illinois*, is scheduled to come out.

Associate Professor Amy Patrick Mossman’s “Sustaining Writing Theory,” which originally appeared in Composition Forum, has been selected to be reprinted in the book *Best Writing from Independent Composition and Rhetoric Journals* (Parlor Press).

Associate Professor Shazia Rahman wrote “Karachi, Turtles and the Materiality of Place: Pakistani Eco-cosmopolitanism in Uzma Aslam Khan’s Trespassing” for ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment.

Professor Margaret Sinex wrote “‘Monsterized Saracens,’ Tolkien’s Haradrim, and Other Medieval ‘Fantasy Products’” for *Tolkien Studies*.

Foreign Languages and Literatures

Assistant Professor Weijia Li wrote *China und China-Erfahrung in Leben und Werk von Anna Seghers* (Peter Lang).

Geography

Assistant Professor Marcus L. Büker co-authored a paper for the American Meteorological Society 25th Conference on Severe Local Storms in Denver in October, published by the American Meteorological Society. He also wrote an article for Theoretical and Applied Climatology.

Associate Professor Redina Herman co-authored “Issues and Uncertainties Affecting Metrics for Aviation Impacts on Climate” for the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.

Associate Professor Jongnam Choi edited *The Geography of Korea* for Korea’s National Geographic Information Institute, Ministry of Land, Transportation and Maritime Affairs. He also participated in the LINC (Leadership in Interdisciplinarity, Networking & Collaboration) Conference in St. Louis in February, and was appointed to the editorial board of the Korean Association of Regional Geographers.

Assistant Professor Ranbir Kang received a WIU University Research Council grant of $5,864 for his project “Geomorphic analysis of local non-vascular understory in reducing bank erosion in a low order stream in...”
Fairfax County, Va.

Professor Siyoung Park co-authored “Chapter 4: Settlement” in The Geography of Korea (Korea’s National Geographic Information Institute).

Associate Professor Tom Williams served as the Event Captain for the Meteorology Event at the WIU Regional Illinois Science Olympiad in February.

Geology

Professor Leslie Melim co-authored “Survey of Pool Fingers of the World; We Want Your Help!” for NSS News.

History

The 36th Annual WIU History Conference in Macomb in March featured presentations by Department faculty members Virginia Boynton, chair; Assistant Professor Ute Chamberlin, Associate Professor Peter Cole, Associate Professor Richard Filipink, Associate Professor Greg Hall, Associate Professor Virginia Jelatis, Assistant Professor Barclay Key, Associate Professor Jennifer McNabb, Assistant Professor Febe Pamonag, Assistant Professor Timothy Roberts, and Associate Professor Edward Woell.


Associate Professor Lee Brice presented “Women and the Roman Army in the Second Triumvirate” at the International Conference on Theory and Practice in the Study of Women’s History at Shanghai Normal University in Shanghai, China, in November, when he also presented “Research in Ancient Greek and Roman History in a World History Context” at Shaanxi Normal University in Xi’an, China.


Associate Professor Richard Filipink wrote “‘Primarily a Political Problem’: Constructing the Image of the Kennedy Presidency, 1961-Present for John F. Kennedy History, Memory, Legacy: An Interdisciplinary Inquiry (University of North Dakota).

Associate Professor Greg Hall reviewed Hoboes: Bindlestiffs, Fruit Tramps, and the Harvesting of the West for Oregon Historical Quarterly.

Assistant Professor Barclay Key reviewed Burning Faith: Church Arson in the American South for the Journal of African American History. Key also gave presentations at the Rock Island Public Library in Rock Island, Ill. in February and the Western Illinois Correctional Center in Mt. Sterling, Ill., in March.


Assistant Professor Roberto Mazza wrote “Antonio De La Cierva y Lewita: The Spanish Consul in Jerusalem 1914-1920” for the Jerusalem Quarterly, and he wrote book reviews for DOMES (Digest of Middle East Studies), Insight Turkey, The Middle East in London, and the International Journal of Middle East Studies.

Mazza also presented “Adapting and changing: the renegotiation of alliances in post-Ottoman Jerusalem - Christian-Muslim Associations and Nebi Musa Riots 1920” at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference in San Diego in November, and “Challenges and Responses of Christianity in the Holy Land: 1914-1920” at the Symposium on Christians and the Middle East Conflict in Langley, British Columbia, in March.

Associate Professor Jennifer McNabb wrote “‘Talk of Marriage’ in Northwest England: Continuity and Change in Matrimonial Litigation, 1560-1640” for Quidditias: The Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, which named her the RMMRA Delno C. West Award Winner for Most Distinguished Conference Paper by a Senior Scholar.


Assistant Professor Timothy Roberts co-authored “Construction of National Identities in Early Republics: A Comparison of the Ameri-
History’s Balsamo a Renaissance character

By Abby E. Lagemann

If asked to describe Larry Balsamo, one might venture to portray his dedication to and enthusiasm for Western Illinois University, home of the Fighting Leathernecks. In 1967, having just recently earned his doctorate in History from the University of Missouri, Balsamo came to WIU to teach in the newly-formed Department of History. Over the next 40 years he taught a number of classes in U.S. History, worked with local high school social studies teachers, and organized numerous History conferences (now an annual event, with a different Larry T. Balsamo keynote speaker each year).

In 1990 he was named Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. He also served for a time as President of the Faculty Senate and chaired the Department of History from August 1999 until his retirement in December 2008.

The Larry T. Balsamo History Teacher Education Scholarship underscores his support for history education.

Asked to describe himself, Balsamo mentions five traits: He is a historian, father, husband, musician, and a St. Louis Cardinals fan.

(Contrary to popular belief, he notes, “No, I did not fight in the Civil War.”)

In his spare time, he says he enjoys playing in a band, the Endnotes, with several other faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences. (He boasts, “We all have suits, and none of us have criminal records.”)

Anyone who knows Balsamo knows that he is always more than willing to offer his predictions and analysis of upcoming or recent baseball games.

Balsamo’s path to becoming a History professor was anything but conventional. When he first started college, he hoped to become a journalist. While he had always enjoyed learning about history, it was not his first choice for a career path until he took his first college history course, a survey of U.S. history. He then decided that he wanted to be a history teacher, and stayed in school to get a masters degree and a teaching certificate. When the University of Missouri offered him an assistantship to continue in the program and work on a Ph.D., he could not refuse.

He reflects fondly on his choice, saying that he always worked a job he liked and was always around people he liked.

“It’s a great job, teaching the most interesting subject in the world – history,” he says.

Balsamo jokingly points out that one of the perks of being a history professor is that “you can’t misdiagnose anyone like a real doctor.”

A great deal has changed at WIU since Balsamo came to Macomb. Prior to the construction of Morgan Hall, he taught courses in Sherman Hall. He recalls a time when students had to adhere to dormitory hours and dress codes, a significant difference from one of his recent students, who usually came to an 11 a.m. class wearing pajamas and slippers. Also, while Balsamo was teaching at Western, the university switched from the quarter system to the semester system, a change he originally opposed, but which he came to appreciate as the right move.

Balsamo has been at WIU for six different university presidents, from Knoblauch to Goldfarb. The train has changed from Burlington Northern to Amtrak, Balsamo points out, adding that Macomb has many different night clubs since he arrived.

Balsamo has many memories of his time in Macomb, some fond, and some downright comical. He remembers one of his most embarrassing moments in the classroom, a day when he walked in and fell down on the floor. His remark to the class full of students was, “Well, I don’t think I can do that again.”

Another time, a nauseated student got sick in class, and Balsamo reacted initially with shock and then by cancelling class for the day.

He also recalled an opportunity to teach a valuable lesson to a student who slept in class every day. In the middle of his lecture, Balsamo was notified of a bomb threat. After the rest of the class evacuated and the student remained asleep, Balsamo woke him. Informed of the situation, the student quickly fled the building – and never slept in class again.

Continued on page 31
Alum donates family medals to WIU Library

By Terry Bibo

On Sept. 11, 1944, after refusing to be separated by World War II, twin brothers Otis Wilson and Archie Willis Vaughn sacrificed everything they had for their fellow soldiers.

The rural Fulton County natives both were awarded a Silver Star and a Purple Heart.

On Memorial Day 2011, after struggling for decades to regain the twins’ medals, the Vaughn family will entrust those honors to Western Illinois University. It is considered a rare and valuable donation because the Vaughn brothers may hold a unique position in U.S. military history as the only twins to die together in battle.

“To me, it’s like a repatriation,” said the Vaughns’ niece, Carol Kuchan, a WIU student in English in the 1960s who returned to study history and earn a Board of Trustees bachelor’s degree. “Just like my grandparents had their bodies repatriated to the States, we’re repatriating their heritage.”

Jeff Hancks, Unit Coordinator for Archives and Special Collections at WIU’s Library, recognized the value of the donation.

“There are a lot of these medals of honor,” Hancks said. “But to have them together, and with documenting research . . . it’s really quite exceptional.”

Kuchan served as her large family’s unofficial historian, partly because of her fascination with her mother’s brothers. When she was a child, although relatives frequently mentioned “Bill” and “Wid” at family gatherings, no one would discuss the way they were killed.

She knew that her uncles – invariably referred to as “the twins” – were so small as infants that they could sleep side by side in a shoebox on the stove in the family farmhouse near Ipava, about 20 miles east of Macomb. She knew they worked together, played baseball together, and socialized together. Even though Wid became engaged and Bill did not, when Bill was drafted, Wid enlisted. Carol was intrigued, but she didn’t learn the details until her grandparents died and the surviving eight siblings were in failing health.

In 1991, one of her uncles offered Carol a trove of medals and war memorabilia. He was moving to Texas to be closer to his wife’s family. He felt Kuchan should be the caretaker for his brothers’ Silver Stars because of her long-time interest. She knew it would probably be the last time she would see him. Under the circumstances, she did not catalog the contents immediately, which she would later regret.

Inside, she found condolence letters from around the country, including the governor of Illinois. Military documents revealed the Vaughn brothers were killed in Verneville, France, five days shy of their 26th birthday. When a group of sleeping U.S. soldiers was attacked by German troops, the twins manned machine guns to cover the company’s withdrawal. Bill was shot; Wid was run over by a German tank. It took months before their parents could have their bodies moved home after the war.

However, the medals awarded were not in the box Kuchan had been given. She later confirmed they had been taken without her uncle’s knowledge and sold at an auction of his household goods, for $25. When
By Bill Knight

In a new summer youth program aimed at high schoolers, Western Illinois University faculty will stress how the sciences are not only connected but collaborative in how they enable people to discover nature.

“Discovering the World through Science” is an opportunity for promising youngsters interested in a variety of fields to enrich their learning and even consider future careers.

Featuring instruction, experiments and applications of biology, chemistry, geology, neuroscience and physics, the six-day program in early June will feature experienced scientists, mathematicians and nurses offering one-and-one and hands-on exposure to such disciplines.

The first offering of “Discovering the World through Science” will have young students spending most of their time actively participating in laboratory and field work designed to provide them with working knowledge of the sciences.

For instance, Neuroscience faculty will lead an investigation into the relationship between the brain and behavior; Physics/Astronomy faculty will supervise telescope viewing at night; and on the final day of the program Biology faculty will accompany students to WIU’s Kibbe Field Laboratory along the banks of the Mississippi River to explore habitat and native plants of this pristine wildlife area.

“We will be having lectures and laboratory exercises related to geologic hazards, including volcanic and earthquake hazards,” says Dr. Kyle Mayborn, Professor in Western’s Department of Geology. “Additionally, we will learn about geologic resources and how geologists explore for them. This includes petroleum exploration and will include a lab exercise that will have the students work in groups to evaluate the oil potential of a hypothetical region. The groups will then participate in a bidding process to acquire land in this region and the petroleum it contains. The group that acquires the most petroleum will be crowned as the winners.”

Such learning-through-doing activities should bring science alive and into the hands of high schoolers who take part.

Participants will stay in a residence hall reserved for them on WIU’s Macomb (main) campus and will have chances to take part in extracurricular activities, too: hiking, swimming, bowling, cookouts, games and even science-related movies followed by informal discussions.

Throughout, the thread of science will run through the week.

“It will be very easy to show the connections between geology and the other sciences,” Mayborn says. “This is because geology is just chemistry and physics as applied to the Earth, and it includes biology when you are studying ancient life.”

“Discovering the World through Science” is being coordinated by WIU’s Non-Credit Programs office and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Bibo is an award-winning journalist who freelances from Peoria.

she confronted the collector who had purchased them, the man declared the medals “priceless” and refused to give them back.

That’s where matters stood until last Thanksgiving, when another relative was trolling the Internet and found the Vaughn medals on a special military website. The collector had died, and had sold them to U.S. Army Capt. Kyle Hatzinger for $10,000, who had already turned down a $25,000 offer. Although the 26-year-old Hatzinger was sympathetic, he was not in a position to give the medals back, saying that his total expenses for their acquisition were close to $15,000.

While Hatzinger came to consider himself the caretaker of the medals, and he planned to write a paper about them, he was agreeable to Kuchan’s suggested compromise: He would be reimbursed and the collection would go to WIU for display and research.

“I thought the collection would be appreciated and safe there,” Kuchan said.

She said the twins themselves often worked and played in Macomb.

“It just seems that is the perfect place,” Kuchan said. “And it’s 15 minutes from where they were born and where they were buried.”

And Kuchan is not the only member of the Vaughn family with current WIU connections. She said six or seven relatives have graduated from or attended the university. That includes the twins’ great-nephew Brian Huff of Midwest Technical Institute in Springfield, who provided the funds to get the medals back but said the credit should go to Kuchan.

Hancks, who has twin toddlers at home, may have a deeper understanding of the bond that makes these medals unique.

“We’re still excited to get them and display them for people,” he said.

Bibo is an award-winning journalist who freelances from Peoria.
Johnson brings prehistoric species to life in Geology Museum

By Alison McGaughey

There’s a new resident in Tillman Hall. Some say it looks like a dolphin. Others say “shark” or call it a “giant fish.” But as WIU Geology Museum Curator Robert Johnson says, it’s neither.

Instead, the life-sized model of a prehistoric creature – which Johnson built from scratch – is a marine reptile. And its name – at least unofficially – is “Opie.”

Visitors to the WIU Geology Museum in Tillman are now greeted by a 13-foot model ichthyosaur suspended from the ceiling. This predator of the Mesozoic seas takes its name from its large, 6-inch-in-diameter eyes. Its long dolphin-like snout features a friendly smile filled by two rows of sharp teeth. As Johnson explains, the Ophthalmosaurus, (or “eye lizard”), is a genus of ichthyosaur, an extinct group of air-breathing marine reptiles distantly related to modern lizards.

With the help of four Geology student assistants, Johnson constructed the unique model over the course of four years, using a range of materials including pink foam insulation, Masonite, clay and Bondo gel. Starting with drawings and computer-aided plans, Johnson built the model entirely from his own design, developing and testing building techniques along the way. (“There is no Building Ichthyosaurs for Dummies book,” Johnson pointed out.)

While he has constructed other models for the museum, including a three-dimensional Pteranodon skull and a Deinonychus skeleton, “this was the first and largest thing we’ve done from the ground up as a full-size life reconstruction,” he said. “We wanted something for the museum that would be really impressive.

“I guess it all started as one of those daydreaming kind of things,” he continued, noting that when he was a child, he was always impressed by large wall-mounted game fish, which he learned later could often be partly fabricated by taxidermists. The idea of building a life-sized model of a prehistoric creature became possible in part through a collection donated by alumnus Jon “Scott” Burdick and his wife, and a matching gift from his employer, Caterpillar, Inc.

“I thought, ‘Hey, we...
could do this. I wanted to do something really different,” Johnson said.

Although this project was a learning experience, Johnson is something of a natural at applying creative talents in a scientific environment. Johnson became curator of the museum after finishing his art degree from Western in 1978. (He’s also Focus magazine’s graphics and layout director.)

“I’m not sure if I’m the poster boy for the liberal arts,” he said. “I was a studio art major but I also had many hours in Earth Science, History and Philosophy. When the curator job came open, an art professor of mine encouraged me to apply. The idea was that I had enough knowledge and background in the sciences to artistically translate what the department wanted in the museum, and that’s how it worked out,” he said.

Over the course of the project, four geology students assisted Johnson with the production. Adam Rawe (‘07) did much of the initial foam construction and shaping as well as the casting of small parts. Jonathan Love (‘08) stepped in to do detail modeling and sanding. Much of the final assembly and epoxy application was done first by Dan Gustafson (‘09) and later by his brother Randy, a current Geology major. Finally, early in the Spring 2011 semester, the model was ready to be moved from the workshop into the museum. With help from the Physical Plant and friends in Tillman Hall—and a special lift cradle that Johnson also built—Opie was raised into final position, where he was connected to the ceiling mount.

Seeing Opie start to take shape over the past year, Johnson said, “It felt like building a giant kids’ model. I’d like to think that the students [who worked on it] got an idea of what can be accomplished without having to send something out to have it professionally done. It was a chance to see what you can do with a little bit of ingenuity and creativity, and hopefully have fun doing it.”

McGaughey is a public information specialist in University Relations, and is a graduate of the WIU master’s program in English.
The phrase “gospel music” has conviction and connotations. It carries with it the images of Sunday mornings, grandmothers, big hats and fancy clothes, hand-clapping, tambourines, shouting, worship and the African-American religious community as a whole. The message it conveys is one of hope, inspiration, salvation and assurance. For many African-Americans, the basis of their survival in this country has been rooted and grounded in the African-American religious tradition of prayer, preaching and music.

It was 90 years ago when Thomas Andrew Dorsey heard W. M. Nix sing at the National Baptist Convention and felt inspired to write sacred music. Dorsey – sometimes called “Professor Dorsey” and other times “Georgia Tom” Dorsey – is credited with coining the term gospel music and introducing it to a larger audience. He became known as the “father of gospel music.” (See box.)

From Dorsey, Mahalia Jackson and Lucy Campbell, to Kirk Franklin, Karen Clark-Sheard and Donald Lawrence, gospel music has never lost its content, although the packaging of the product has drastically changed in some circles. In its elemental stages, gospel music evolved from the simple harmonies of a capella Spirituals sung in the midst of the campfire meetings, to the traditional, yet complex gospel hymnody of the Black church.

Over the span of several decades, despite its sacred text and religious impact, gospel music can no longer be relegated to the “Church house” experience. After a long incubation, gospel was reborn into the secular scene with as much religious fervor as it has always had in appealing to more than the parishioners of the Black church. With its infectious riffs, rhythmic and catchy lyrics, and familiar melodies and harmonies, gospel music has claimed a seat at the table of African-American popular music, right next to Rhythm and Blues and Hip-Hop.

However, many of the legends of the music industry, along with much of the African-American clergy, feel that the purpose of the genre has been lost as it appeals to people’s emotions and even passions. For example, the success of Kirk Franklin’s very urban-sounding music made many “traditionalists” uncomfortable (as they were with the overwhelming success of gospel rap). Much of the appeal is rooted in the fact that the majority of those who are drawn to this contemporary gospel sound because of the rhythmic charm and harmonic finesse, may not always recognize the genre’s religious base.

While it is true that gospel music today has a crossover appeal to a very large audience, many of the hits within the genre can be heard both in the dance club on Saturday night and in the sanctuary on Sunday morning.

**Migration**

Once Emancipation occurred, African Americans were supposedly free to move as they pleased. However, as they migrated out of the South to the North, many of them stayed within their own social communities. Segregation remained the status quo, so social circles served as places of refuge. As a result, there was a rapid rise in the growth and establishment of Black churches very much like the ones established in the...
South prior to Emancipation. Standing tall in the center of the Black experience in the United States, the Black church was the first institution to be controlled by Blacks and it has remained their most powerful institution.

From the beginning, the church was more than a religious community. The church set up infant schools and Sunday schools to care for children and educate former slaves; it sponsored benevolent and moral-reform societies; it organized literary and debating societies and library rooms; and it promoted recreational programs for its members. In short, the church undertook the responsibility to provide Black communities with all the opportunities and activities denied them by a racist populace in the North and a slave-holding populace in the South.

In music, the church played the key role of patron. It sponsored singing schools for children and adults and offered showcases for talent from the Black community through concerts. Perhaps most important of all, it provided a place where Black Americans could experiment with composing all kinds of religious music, from the spiritual to formal anthems.

The musical heritage of African-American people always has emphasized group and personal expression that historically characterized several genres of music within the culture, which is native to Africa. In Africa, the art of expression in music was displayed often through improvisation on the melody as well as the vocal. There were times when singers and musicians alike would make up a song as they performed. This improvisation has been an integral part of the African-American culture in almost every genre of music, from work songs and field hollers of despondent slaves to hymns and anthems of well-educated gospel artists of today.

Although many well-known hymns are Euro-American in origin, the style in which many of these same hymns are delivered comes entirely from the African tradition of improvisation – collective spontaneity. The influence of Euro-American hymns in the worship services of the African-American community increased dramatically as the Black church as an institution flourished, as well as with the increase of more literate African-Americans around the turn of the 20th century. These factors, of course, were the major aspects in the borrowing of Euro-American elements into their musical practices. Therefore, African-Americans borrowed the elements they saw as useful for their purpose.

**MERGING**

It was in the early 20th century that the Black religious community began to take the Euro-American hymn and infuse various musical elements common to its culture plus embellished meters and form. Using improvisation augmented by either piano or organ, this variation gave African Americans the musical overlay common to the Spiritual and the Black metered-music tradition. The Euro-American hymns were forever changed.

The lyric texts were usually identical, but the performance, musically, was altogether different. It was at this juncture of performance that the oral tradition re-emerged. The “standard,” or well-known, Euro-American hymns required no special instruction for Black renditions. The Black religious community added various musical ornamentations, which gave the impression that African Americans instinctively “knew” how to sing these hymn songs. This mode of singing was common to the Black religious experience and was passed from one generation to another via an oral tradition in Black sacred music. The African-American and the Euro-American religious traditions were blended musically in such a way as to produce a new genre. This was music predominantly African in tone, developed by slaves on plantations, and passed on orally to free Blacks living in urban communities.
In the 20th century, as African-Americans worked to build new communities and as they moved about the country seeking economic and educational opportunities, they produced a rich variety of musical styles that reflected the range of experiences they encountered. In jazz compositions, Blues songs, classically arranged Spirituals, gospel anthems and many other forms of music, musicians gave voice to the community aspirations and invoked the extremes of emotions and experiences that were part of modern Black life.

The presence of Black Americans in urban centers changed the configuration of Black church life and style, too. Larger congregations were common in these urban areas during the beginning years of the “visible” institution due to the concentration of Blacks in these urban areas. The increased number of sizable and impressive church buildings within urban centers was patterned after the observable religious life of the dominant society. Physically, Black churches became more oriented to auditoriums and sanctuaries, in contrast to the simple needs of the once-familiar rural-style worship that, at best, was intermittent. So the church life of Blacks in cities became a weekly affair. In rural areas, one-Sunday and two-Sunday a month services were all that were possible with limited transportation and leadership.

**THE BIRTH OF ‘GOSPEL’ MUSIC**

The Pentecostal movement was the impetus for the beginning of gospel music as it’s known today. The founders of the Pentecostal Church of God in Christ instituted their own services, characterized by testimonies and suitably emotional music, often improvised and sung in a highly charged style. The Pentecostal church inherited the shouts, hand-clapping and foot-stomping jubilee songs and ecstatic seizures of the plantation “praise houses.”

Between 1910 and 1920, the Pentecostal, or “sanctified,” movement flourished across the country as more African-American people moved to cities. Women made up the bulk of these congregations and took on many prominent roles in establishing church buildings, spreading the faith, and shaping the distinct musical style that helped to define the sanctified tradition.

These churches — in contrast to many mainline churches, where there was more restraint than emotional expression — regarded exuberant worship as an expression of the Holy Spirit’s presence in believers’ hearts, souls and minds. Moreover, the belief that music flowed out of a holy encounter and the emphasis placed on personal testimonies to the power of the Spirit within individuals, fostered a mode of worship that nurtured solo expression and instrumental accompaniment that ranged from washtubs to trumpets to guitars.

The excitement generated by these powerful and intensely personal worship experiences created a link to both Black and white gospel hymns, particularly as they were “African-Americanized” through syncopation, call-and-response delivery, and other approaches. But even this kind of growth required yet more maturation before it could be recognized as a new style.

With the Pentecostal movement, parishioners of these “sanctified” churches wanted to hear impassioned preaching; they wanted worship to be spontaneous and participatory, with ample room for interjections by the faithful, with such cries of “Hallelujah!” They expected “moaning,” the term for the wordless humming and vocalization that Black Southerners used in accompanying the widely performed 18th century hymns of Dr. Isaac Watts, a pioneer hymn writer of the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Those Southerners who embraced the Pentecostal tradition also expected that the faithful might speak in tongues or be anointed by the Holy Spirit. In response, a new kind of Black minister appeared in Northern pulpits, making powerfully emotional appeals, shouting and gesturing and eliciting active responses from the faithful.

Gospel music was the musical counterpart of the profound changes in religious life that were catalyzed by the Great Migration of African-Americans from the South to the North in the late 1800s. It built upon
the revival songs of such late 19th century white evangelicals as Ira Sankey, an American Gospel singer and composer of the late 19th century. The lyrics of these revival songs differed sharply from earlier Black Spirituals. Where the Spirituals addressed collective hardships, revival songs were profoundly individualistic. They employed sentimental language and focused on individual salvation and on Jesus’ role as a personal comforter.

MOVING ON

By the late 19th century, white evangelicals began using the term “gospel songs” in nondenominational revival music. Charles Albert Tindley was the first African American to compose and publish gospel songs. His 1916 collection entitled *New Songs of Paradise* included 37 of his gospel compositions. In 1921, Tindley gained even more recognition when the National Baptist Convention selected several of his songs for inclusion in its national songbook.

Tindley also inspired Dorsey, a prolific Blues pianist from Georgia, to begin writing gospel songs. Dorsey had toured the country with a troupe called the Rabbit Foot Minstrels, which featured the illustrious Gertrude “Ma” Rainey, before he began to take the newfound genre of gospel music seriously. It was not until Dorsey relocated to Chicago that he played a key role in formalizing even more the style of music now known as gospel.

Although Dorsey was a practicing Bluesman, he continued to write religious music. Noted for his embellishment of hymns with Blues elements, he didn’t write his first “gospel” number until 1921. After experiences in the world of secular music during the early 1920s, Dorsey achieved his first gospel music hit in 1926 – “If You See My Savior Tell Him That You Saw Me” – after years of dedication to this field. Combining the sensitivity of Black audience demands and reactions with Tindley’s sincerity and religiosity, Dorsey composed songs that struck at the very base of the Black religious experience. He was the first musician to organize the “call and response” technique of textual treatment in Afro-American songs that had been brought to this country by slaves and impressed upon Black American culture through its use in the songs of the holiness and fundamental Black congregations.

In 1931, under the leadership of Dorsey and a close musical acquaintance, Theodore R. Frye, the world’s first documented gospel choir in a Black church was organized at Chicago’s Ebenezer Baptist Church. In 1933, Dorsey, along with Sallie Martin, organized the first Black gospel music convention – the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses – in Chicago. The strength this organization still possesses is reflected in the many delegates and conventioneers that are committed to the preservation of this music.

Dorsey was influential in the lives of numerous gospel singers and because of his infusion of Blues-based harmonies and chordal structures within his own compositions, gospel music began to rise to another level of musical appreciation not only within the Black church, but outside of the church.

This infectious style of sacred song was taking hold of the country and it was evident in the various styles of gospel music that was performed in Churches across the nation as early as 1950. From this time forward, gospel music has re-vamped, remodeled, and

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**Civil Rights on the flip side**

Many “B” sides on old 45s of gospel songs address the subject of civil rights, the Vietnam War and other social issues, according to a Baylor University researcher overseeing a preservation effort called the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project.

The recent discovery “tells us that the gospel community was much more involved in the civil rights movement than we previously thought — outside of Mahalia Jackson and Dorothy Love Coates, who we knew were very involved,” said Robert Darden, an associate professor of journalism at Baylor and a former gospel editor for *Billboard* magazine.

In 2005, Darden began a search-and-rescue mission for gospel music on old 78s, 45s and LPs and in various taped formats to be preserved digitally and cataloged at Baylor. Darden — author of *People Get Ready! A New History of Black Gospel Music* — was concerned that while contemporary gospel was thriving, early gospel by lesser known artists during the 1940s to the 1970s, the “Golden Age of Gospel Music,” might be lost forever.

The songs related to Civil Rights may have escaped notice because few scholars are studying gospel music’s impact on that issue, as well as the fact many of the artists are lesser known or even unknown, he said.

For instance, the spirited “Where is Freedom?” by the Friendly Four begins with a rousing appeal: “Here’s a freedom song for all you freedom fighters out there everywhere. And when you sing, remember the wonderful ones who lost their dedicated lives for this precious purpose and won’t be allowed to see it through. Now sing — sing, every one of you!”

Its lyrics speak of civil rights marches and demonstrations in Atlanta, Tennessee, Birmingham and Chicago, of violence and police dogs, of integration and equal rights.

Others include the All-Star Gospel Singers’ recording “I Believe Martin Luther King Made It Home,” and the somber “Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King” by the Rev. Franklin Fondel. Fondel recalls the civil rights leader whose “voice was his weapon that opened barred doors . . . He’s free now forever, like all men should be, regardless of color, religion or creed.”

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*Spring/Summer 11*
re-formed into a multi-billion dollar industry.

The gospel artists of the “golden age” (from 1930 to 1970), such as Dorsey, Lucie Campbell, Roberta Martin and W. Herbert Brewster were, of course, the trailblazers into the world of recording and marketing the “good news.” Each of these legendary musicians contributed greatly to the development of gospel music as an identifiable genre of African-American music from its inception. However, as generations have come and gone, has the message of the gospel been lost or compromised in the contemporary sound that gospel music as a genre has adopted?

THE GOSPEL MUSIC ‘CONTROVERSY’

When it all comes together, gospel music is the “good news” in song form. As a mode of communication, gospel is pleasing to the ear, the emotions, the spirit, the intellect and the soul. Gospel as a genre of music is one of the four most significant musical creations that emerged out of the African-American culture during the 20th century, along with Jazz, Blues and Rap.

However, the good news of gospel music has spread far beyond the choir stands of the church. It has showed up during pop radio drive-time, in slickly produced videos, on commercial record labels, and in concert halls across the country. Many consumers of gospel music are aware of the ongoing debate of its secular appeal.

Although the music’s sound has been altered drastically from its dawning, the message it contains is still the same. For many fans of gospel music, the contemporary flavor of the music is what makes it so appealing to the younger audience. However, the older audience views this new wave of Hip-Hop sounding gospel as a slap in the face of sanctification and true holiness.

Gospel artists such as Kirk Franklin, Fred Hammond, Karen Clark-Sheard and Yolanda Adams all have infused the gospel genre with elements from Hip-Hop, Jazz and Rap. Their albums have reached the top of the charts in both sacred and secular circles and their live performances pack huge auditoriums, bringing a resurgence to gospel as young people found their sound a refreshing alternative to the decidedly secular tone of Hip-Hop. Adams and Franklin became so popular among non-gospel listeners as well as serious gospel listeners that radio stations began to include many gospel songs on their playlists.

As the contemporary sound of gospel music continues to flourish, many traditionalists of gospel frowned on the success of this “worldly” sounding music. While the contemporary sound of gospel music draws in an even broader listening audience, the traditionalists of gospel continue to ask why artists constantly water down the gospel message and compromise it with carnal sounding music. The message of love, hope, peace, joy and freedom from sin in the music is obviously there, but many feel that the message seems to be blurred by the “crossover” appeal that several contemporary gospel artists adopted.

Traditionalists of gospel are distressed by the tone of contemporary gospels. They say that with several artists, the lyrics, not just the music suggest other types of intimacy than for God. For instance, the crossover success of Adams’ song “Open My Heart” from the album Mountain High, Valley Low was astounding. This song was being played not only on the top gospel stations across the country, but also was a hit on some of the top urban stations. As a result, the song was easily mistaken by many as a secular love ballad: “Alone in a room, It’s just me and you. I feel so lost, ‘cause I don’t know what to do. Now what if I choose the wrong thing to do? I’m so afraid, afraid of disappointing you.”

One might question the spiritual integrity of typical gospel music fans, taking for granted that his spiritual walk and discernment would allow them to make spiritual connections with the music, no matter how worldly it sounds. However, the traditionalist view of this philosophy is rooted and grounded in the Bible, which says, “Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil; that put darkness for light and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

Several gospel artists from decades past stood on the promises of God as they wrestled with the notion of compromise. Many artists were offered large sums of money to lend their voices to the world of secular music. Evangelist Shirley Caesar was asked to sing Rock ‘n’ Roll music while she was at the pinnacle of her career. Music executives even offered to put her mother – a semi-invalid – in the best of nursing-home care. She still did not compromise. She told them that the only way she would sing Rock ‘n’ Roll is if they would allow her to, “Rock for Jesus and Roll for Christ.” Many of the artists who actually left gospel music to pursue more lucrative careers in secular music did not straddle the fence, instead remaining in the world of secular entertainment.

The most popular crossover artist – with many secular albums as well as two very popular gospel albums – is Aretha Franklin, whose success hinged on the fact that the public loved her from the beginning. The daughter of a famed minister, the Rev. C.L. Franklin, she sang gospel until she was about 14. She began to sing secular music shortly thereafter and sang it with conviction without forgetting her religious roots. With more than 40 albums to her credit between 1956 and 2003, Aretha Franklin somehow slid past the traditionalists and blessed them with another gospel album in 1972. After its
success, Franklin ventured back into the world of secular entertainment, thus leaving an indelible impression on many up-and-coming secular artists that it could be fashionable to sing secular music as long as you go back every once in a while and re-member from whence you’ve come.

In a world where money and the power that it affords is the object of affection for many, several musical artists have started singing gospel. Has this crossing over of this musical genre overstepped the boundaries of African-American religion? The debate is ongoing. Many African-American popular music artists have their roots in the Black church. Yet some, like their predecessors, are keeping pace with the times while continuing to spread the message of the gospel. These changes have not always been welcomed in most religious circles, but they have moved a people who were once chattel slaves to a liberated people with a contemporary hope and a future. When gospel was popularized, it was rooted in the totality of the Black experience in the United States, which was subsumed in the heart of the Blues tradition. Therefore, gospel being born out of Blues has its own identity while it resembles its parent. As Blues began to rightfully manifest itself in gospel, it reminded many people then as now of the nightclub atmosphere that served a community of sinners in need of repentance.

African-American Christianity has been used to justify dismissing secular music and its influence on sacred song. The dismissal is not found in the musical scoring of a particular song, nor solely in the lyrics. Rather, the rejection pertains to its delivery, the presentation and the reception of the song by its consumers.

The pioneers of gospel music created this genre with the intent of spreading the “good news” to a broader, more mainstream audience. However, they did not intend for this genre to be compromised and manipulated by the popular music industry. When listening to contemporary gospel music, there is a very fine line between what sounds “sacred enough” or what sounds “too secular.” Gospel music is a multi-billion dollar industry that has taken on a life of its own. However, the gospel artists themselves have been caught in the cross-fire of this religious debate. The intentions of these artists may have been pure from the onset of the gospel idiom, but the demanding public has ensured their failure and success as they continue straddling the thin line between Saturday night and Sunday morning.


### Thomas Dorsey

The father of gospel music, Thomas Andrew Dorsey first gained recognition as a Blues pianist and later became known as for his role in developing, publishing and promoting the gospel blues.

Dorsey was born in Villa Rica, Ga., on July 1, 1899, to Etta Plant Spencer and Thomas Madison. Dorsey, an itinerant preacher and sharecropper, was first exposed to music in church, where he heard shape-note singing and emotional, moaning spiritual songs. His mother was a respected organist, and Dorsey began playing the instrument at a young age.

In 1908 the family relocated to Atlanta, where Dorsey was introduced to a broader spectrum of secular music and worked at the Eighty-One Theater, where he witnessed performances by Gertrude “Ma” Rainey, met Bessie Smith, and learned from house pianists. From age 12 to 14 Dorsey played at house parties and brothels in Atlanta, first gaining the nickname “Barrel House Tom.”

In 1916 Dorsey moved to Chicago, where he continued his musical training at the Chicago School of Composition and Arranging, and in 1920 he published his first composition. Throughout the 1920s Dorsey’s rising fame derived from his Blues music, but he also worked as a composer and arranger, and as a music coach. King Oliver was one of the prominent recording artists to use one of Dorsey’s early pieces.

Religious music reappeared as a musical influence in 1921, when Dorsey heard W. M. Nix sing at the National Baptist Convention. Dorsey registered his first religious piece in 1922 and became director of music at New Hope Baptist Church, where he fused sacred music with his Blues technique to become one of the progenitors of gospel blues.

Dorsey continued playing the Blues, too in 1924 Ma Rainey chose him to organize and lead her Wild Cats Jazz Band. However, Dorsey’s greatest Blues success came in 1928 when “Tampa Red” Whitaker brought him the lyrics to a song called “It’s Tight Like That,” and the two had an instant, bawdy hit. Performing under the name “Georgia Tom,” Dorsey recorded more than 60 sides with Tampa Red, in addition to accompanying many famous blues performers, including Big Bill Broonzy, Blind Lemon Jefferson and Victoria Spivey.

At the height of his blues career, Dorsey’s gospel music also gained popularity, and his work spread throughout the Chicago religious community after Willie Mae Ford Smith sang “If You See My Savior” at the National Baptist Convention. His second church appointment came in 1931, when the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Chicago hired Dorsey to organize a chorus.

During the late 1930s and early 1940s, Dorsey worked extensively with Mahalia Jackson, establishing Jackson as the preeminent gospel singer and Dorsey as the dominant gospel composer of the time. His work with Jackson and other female singers, including Della Reese and Clara Ward, ensured Dorsey’s continued prominence.

Dorsey died in Chicago on January 23, 1993, of complications from Alzheimer’s disease. His musical legacy ranges from “If I Don’t Get There” (1921) to “There’ll Be Peace in the Valley” (1937).

Background material courtesy of the Georgia Encyclopedia.
Retired math prof ‘pays it forward’

By Richard Moreno

Retired Western Illinois University mathematics professor Dr. Lynn Wolfmeyer and his wife Mary wanted to ‘pay it forward’ after their two children received scholarships to attend Western in the 1990s.

So recently, the couple established the Lynn J. and Mary L. Wolfmeyer Scholarship in Mathematics, a two-year award of $1,000 per year for upper division students majoring in Mathematics at Western.

“We wanted to pay back what they received from the WIU Foundation,” said Dr. Wolfmeyer, who turned 70 in February.

The scholarship is given to a deserving junior in good standing and with a major grade point average of 3.00 or higher. Preference is given to a student who completed high school in Macomb or West-Central Illinois.

Dr. Wolfmeyer, who retired in 2004 after working for more than 38 years at Western, said the scholarship came about after he told his children, MaryAnne (class of 1997) and Mark (class of 2000), that he would make a financial contribution toward graduate...
By Bonnie Barker

English Professor Emerita Olive Fite, a distinguished scholar of American literature – particularly Melville – served Western students for 25 years, from 1947 to 1972. She once wrote that her goal, as a teacher of American literature, “is to acquaint my students with the literature of their native land.”

Fite has spent 64 of her nearly 100 years – which she will celebrate in November – of gracious living in Macomb; and since she established the Olive Fite American Literature Scholarship in 1986, she has added another 25 years of service to WIU students, on top of teaching.

The Olive Fite American Literature Scholarship provides a stipend to an English major who has a minimum 3.0 grade point average and who is recommended by American Literature faculty.

Laura E. Black, recipient of the scholarship in Spring 2004, sent a thank-you letter to Fite, told her benefactor about herself and her goal to become a published author.

Black said Fite replied to her with a card and a note that read, in part: “The career you wish to pursue will need some luck as well as your devotion to it. This I sincerely wish for you. I’m 92 and so will probably miss seeing your first publication. Wish I could!”

In the late 1940s, Western Illinois State College (WISC) experienced rapidly increasing enrollment. In 1947, Fite was among 23 new faculty hired, which pushed the number of faculty at WISC to more than 100. Ten years later – July 5, 1957 – WISC was changed to Western Illinois University.

As a Melville scholar, Fite contributed numerous critiques on Melville’s works, which were published in the journal Nineteenth-Century Fiction plus periodicals such as Melville Society Extracts.

One of her professors was preeminent Melville scholar Harrison Mosher Hayford at Northwestern University, where she earned her Master’s degree and Ph.D.

Fite contributed remarks in the Northwestern magazine about “the extremely popular teacher (Hayford),” writing, “His scholarship was most impressive, but he never lost the human touch. A kinder person I have never known. He made me a better teacher and a better person.”

Professor Fite, in turn, touched many students’ lives and made them better people.

Barker is Assistant Director of University Relations at Western Illinois University.
The Real Sequel

‘Fraternity’ novel released by Western grad

By Hunter Kelly

The camaraderie – and chaos – of fraternity life inspired Western Illinois University graduate Rick Lundeen’s first published novel, Fraternity.

The book – a novel based on events Lundeen recalls from Western’s Macomb campus, “tells the story of a core group of about five people and their lives at College USA, and their lives for the 10 years after until the actual college fraternity was ordered closed,” said Lundeen, who currently works at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg.

The book also describes what happens when frat life goes bad.

“The book is also a cautionary tale of what happens when a fraternity allows guns and/or crossbows in its residence,” Lundeen said. “I can assure (you) from what took place, beer, guns and overexcited fraternity boys do not go (together) well. I was not in my fraternity when the end came, having graduated years earlier, but had several people explain the situation to me.”

Lundeen wants it to be known that, in the end, the book is fictional, adding that he is grateful for the time he spent at WIU.

“I enjoyed my time at Western and had a very positive experience,” Lundeen said. “Let me say that I have always found the Greek [Life] office as well as the overall structure of residence life very professional and well-trained.”

Lundeen said that the characters in Fraternity are generally composites, not based on specific people. In the book, the male characters have names like Blackberry, Blueberry and Edelberry, while the female characters are all given names based on flowers. The chapters in the book are color-coded instead of numbered, with names such as Red Fraternity, Green Fraternity and Pink Sorority.

“I did this because I want the reader to think of a fraternity like a cluster of berries,” Lundeen said. “Each group (chapter) is part of a vine (larger Greek organization).”

As a student at Western, Lundeen wrote for the Western Courier, but never really considered journalism as a career. Then, about two years ago while eating at a Chinese restaurant, something happened that would change Lundeen’s life.

“We were eating, and when I was done with my meal I opened up my fortune cookie. My fortune read: ‘You have a charming way with words and should write a book,’” Lundeen said. “That got me thinking and I went away with it.

“The book came out in December and should be available as an E-Kindle book in the next few weeks,” he added. “I still have the slip of paper with my fortune on it as well.”

Lundeen, who graduated in 1988 with a degree in political science, was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity. After graduation, Lundeen served in the Navy aboard the USS Ticonderoga, an Aegis guided missile cruiser, the same type of ship featured in Tom Clancy’s best-selling thriller The Hunt For Red October. Coincidentally, Clancy is one of Lundeen’s favorite authors. Lundeen’s current project is a suspense novel entitled Black Dagger.

“The story focuses on the character of Jazz Fox, the second-highest-paid porn star in the world, and his roommate, Henry, who spent eight years in the Navy,” Lundeen said. “In the story, Jazz goes to pay a debt to his bookie, and while in the bookie’s office, he finds a briefcase full of money and a small brown sack, and takes both. Jazz thinks the cash will help him start a new life. Jazz and Henry go on the run from the mob, hiding out in the small college town of Blue Hills, where they pretend to be college students. While Jazz and Henry are hiding out, the mob is busy hiring members of the Shadows, a shady international group who specializes in tracking down people who don’t want to be found.”

Lundeen also has his own website, www.surferdudeblog.com, which provides information on a variety of topics and also includes excerpts from both of his books.

“One of the things I always tell people is to always be persistent and have confidence in yourself,” Lundeen said. “Words I believe everyone should live by.”

Kelley is a junior law enforcement and justice administration major from Peoria who works at the Western Courier, where a different version of this story appeared.
“... I learned a lot during my time in Macomb. Macomb is where I got my start ...”

Mike Royko (the Chicago columnist who won the 1972 Pulitzer Prize for commentary and a bestselling author). I wanted to go after something, just go out and do it. “Be passionate; keep your eyes open; be well rounded; and never give up. “Early in my reporting,” he continued. “I wanted to be Mike Royko (the Chicago columnist who won the 1972 Pulitzer Prize for commentary and a bestselling author). I wanted to go after the big story. I finally realized it’s not getting the big story that I should think about. Instead, I turned my focus on writing the best stories possible.”

And now he has a Pulitzer Prize.

Barker is Assistant Director of University Relations at Western Illinois University. Ed Komenda of the Western Courier and Lainie Steelman of the McDonough County Voice also contributed to this article.

CHICAGO’S SOUTHSIDE BEAT

With his degree in hand and good experiences in news editing and reporting, Konkol landed his first job with Star Newspapers, a Chicago Sun-Times publication. He wrote for the Daily Southtown and the former Sun-Times Red Streak before joining the Chicago Sun-Times news staff.

What story line does Konkol consider his personal favorite? Covering the Chicago White Sox winning the 2005 World Series – a Southsider’s dream come true.

SOCIAL MEDIA VS. PRINT

“Social media is necessary. It’s faster; it will always be there,” Konkol said. “But it can’t change the press. Newspapers are vital. They are from professional organizations that expect accuracy and timelines. We still need writers to tell stories, to have a chance for depth to keep news alive.”

ON WIU AND MACOMB

“My time at the Western Courier was really important,” Konkol said. “At the Courier, you just went out and did it. I learned a lot during my time in Macomb. Macomb is where I got my start; it’s been a good career.”

ADVICE TO STUDENTS

“If you want to write, just write,” he said. “Put your entire being into those sentences. If you want to do something, just go out and do it. “Be passionate; keep your eyes open; be well rounded; and never give up. “Early in my reporting,” he continued. “I wanted to be Mike Royko (the Chicago columnist who won the 1972 Pulitzer Prize for commentary and a bestselling author). I wanted to go after the big story. I finally realized it’s not getting the big story that I should think about. Instead, I turned my focus on writing the best stories possible.”

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from “Konkol” page 5

mer Western Courier adviser Terry Lawhorn.

“Terry told me he needed a news editor, and I signed up,” said Konkol, who served as the Western Courier news editor from 1993-May 1995.

“The Western Courier was a good experience for me,” he added. “It was a good place to do journalism and to learn.”

Lawhorn recalls a persistent student journalist.

“He had really high standards in his news reporting,” said the retired Student Publications adviser.

“When he got started, there was no stopping him.”

Konkol was a reporter for the Macomb Journal (now McDonough County Voice) from May – December 2005, covering city and county government, covering sports and designing pages. Konkol graduated in Fall 1995 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and a second major in communication, with an option in public communication and human relations.

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from “Balsamo” page 17

Along with his first day as department chair, delivering the Distinguished Faculty Lecture, and his service as Faculty Senate president, Balsamo’s favorite memory at WIU is FLAB, or Faculty League All-Star Baseball, of which he was the founder. During the late 1970s and ’80s, several teams made up of faculty from various departments competed in this slow-pitch softball league. The History department team called themselves the Black Sox as a tribute to 1919’s infamous World Series scandal. They played their games in the vacant lot across Western Avenue from Corbin and Olson, a field they dubbed Balsamo Stadium.

Balsamo recalled one game in particular, when the team from the Psychology department wore shirts and ties as their uniforms, mocking the new orange t-shirts Balsamo bought for his team. On a close play at home plate, history professor Nick Pano was cut by an opponent’s tie clip, ending up requiring stitches.

More than two years after he retired, Balsamo is still adjusting to life after teaching. He continues to read history. He still thinks of himself as a faculty member, and admits to waking up every morning thinking about what class he is teaching that day before he realizes that he no longer has any regular teaching responsibilities. However, that does not stop him from walking the corridors of Morgan Hall, joking and sharing stories with anyone who will listen, and putting his feet up on his desk for his daily afternoon nap.

When speaking with Balsamo, one thing becomes immediately clear: He truly loves Western Illinois University. Given the opportunity to speak about his experience at WIU, Balsamo will always oblige. He reflects on his time time at Western with a smile stretched across his face.

Even after retirement, Balsamo will forever be a Leatherneck.
Focus

American and Turkish Cases” for the Journal of the Historical Society. He also gave presentations at the American Historical Association in Boston in January and the Organization of American Historians in Houston in March.

Further, he wrote the chapter “The Democratic Party” in The Early Republic and Antebellum America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History (M.E. Sharpe) and “Learning about Civil War, Separatism and Nation Building through Teaching in the Turkish Republic” for the Journal of American History; and reviewed American Mediterranean: Southern Slaveholders in the Age of Emancipation for Enterprise and Society for Fundamenta Mathematicae.

Instructor Candace Rosene received a $1,400 grant from the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Lambda State Educational Foundation.

Professor Nader Vakil wrote Real Analysis Through Modern Infinitesimals (Cambridge University Press) – the publisher’s 140th volume in its Encyclopedia of Mathematics and its Application series.

Mathematics

The Department hosted the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) Regional Mathematics Contest in February.

Assistant Professor Amy Ekanayake received a travel award to attend the International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM 2011) in July in Vancouver, British Columbia, funded in part from a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF).

Ekanayake also co-authored an article for Stochastic Analysis and Applications.

Assistant Professor Elizabeth Hansen co-wrote an article for Statistics & Probability Letters.


Associate Professor Robert Mann wrote “Teaching Mathematics in a Flat World: What do Teachers Need to Know?” for Teaching Children Mathematics.

Assistant Professor Jana Marikova wrote “O-Minimal Fields with Standard Part Map,” and co-authored “Triangulation in o-Minimal Fields with Standard Part Map,” both

Philosophy & Religious Studies

Associate Professor Amy Carr presented “Liturgies for the Living Dead: Jones, Lange, and the Tension between Trauma as Disabling Terror and Liberating Trope” at the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta in October. She also reviewed The Shame That Lingers: A Survivor-Centered Critique of Catholic Sin-Talk for the Journal of Religion.

Also, Carr and department chair John Simmons co-authored “Between Guru and Deceiver? Responding to Unchosen Metaphors in the Religious Studies Classroom” for Teaching Theology and Religion.

Assistant Professor Sarah Haynes presented “On the Road: Ritual Adaptation in the Buddhist Diaspora” at the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta in October.

Professor David Haugen reviewed
Assistant Professor Betsy Perabo presented “The Army of God and the Army of the Buddha: Religion and the Russo-Japanese War” at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies in Los Angeles in November.

Associate Professor Christopher Pynes wrote the entries “Bioethics of Cloning” and “In Vitro Fertilisation: Regulation” for Encyclopedia of Life Sciences (John Wiley & Sons).

Assistant Professor Robert Seltzer co-wrote “Frost’s DESIGN” for Explicator.

Chair John Simmons wrote “Christian Science” for The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity (Cambridge University Press), and presented “Putting the Science in Christian Science: Scientific Pragmatism and Religious Revelation in American Culture” at the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta in October.

Dr. Betsy Perabo


Assistant Professor Brian M. Davies was named President-elect of the Illinois section of the American Association of Physics Teachers in October.

Instructor Kishor T. Kapale presented “The Rayleigh Limit of Resolution and the Heisenberg Uncertainty Relation” at the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers meeting in Sherrard, Ill., in October. Kapale also presented “Sub-nanoscale Resolution for Microscopy via Coherent Population Trapping” at the Central States Universities Inc. (CSUI) conference at Argonne National Laboratory in DuPage County, Ill., in October.

Professor James Rabchuk presented “Flux and the Faraday Generator” at the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers meeting at Sherrard, Ill., in October.

Associate Professor Pengqian Wang presented “Changing the Color of a Tunable Dye Laser: From Visible to Ultraviolet” at the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers meeting at Sherrard, Ill., in October.

Also, Wang presented “Laser-Induced Multiphoton Ionization of Benzene” at the Central States Universities Inc. (CSUI) conference at Argonne National Laboratory in DuPage County, Ill., in October.

Assistant Professor Greg Baldi presented “Losing It: Managing Deindustrialization in Britain and Germany” at the 2011 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago in March.

Chair Keith Boeckelman presented “Economic Development Rhetoric in the 2010 Gubernatorial Elections” at the 2011 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago in March.

Assistant Professor Jonathan Day presented “The Impact of Legislative Term Limits on State Spending and Debt” at the 2011 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago in March.

Associate Professor Janna Deitz presented “Out of Step, But Farther Behind: Gender and Legislative Extremism” at the 2011 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago in March. Deitz also presented “Changing the Color of a Tunable Dye Laser: From Visible to Ultraviolet” at the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers meeting at Sherrard, Ill., in October.

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Political Science

Associate Professor Julia Albarracin presented “Social Connectedness and Social Participation Among Latinos: Does Interaction with Other

Ethnicities Make People Participate More?” at the 2011 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago in March.

Professor Vin Auger presented “Norm Consolidation and Resistance: The Responsibility to Protect” at the International Studies Association Midwest Meetings in St. Louis in November.

Professor Richard Hardy presented “The Paradoxes of Political Parties in American Constitutional Development” at the 14th Annual German American Conference on Civic Education at Indiana University in Bloomington in March. Hardy also wrote “Founding of the American Political System: in 21st Century Political Science: A Reference Handbook” (Sage Publications).

Assistant Professor Casey LaFrance and Assistant Professor Macherie Placide co-presented “Targeting Discretion: An Exercise in Organizational Development” at the 2011 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans in January.

LaFrance and Placide also co-presented “Another Trip to the Firing Range: Testing the Model of Discretion in Local Law Enforcement” at the 2011 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago in March.

LaFrance also wrote four articles for Law Enforcement Executive Forum and the International Journal of Police Science & Management.

Associate Professor Jongho Lee presented “Explaining Transnational Political Activities Among Latino Immigrants” at the 2011 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, in Chicago in March.

Instructor Daniel Ogbaharya wrote “Community-Based Natural Resources Management in Eritrea and Ethiopia: Toward a Comparative Institutional Analysis” for the Journal of East African Studies.

Assistant Professor Macherie Placide presented on “International Women’s Day” in March as part of the Faculty Lecture Series sponsored by the Department of African American Studies.

Assistant Professor Erin Taylor and Associate Professor Lora Ebert Wallace of WIU’s Department of Sociology & Anthropology co-presented “An Evaluation of the Use of ‘Risk’ vs. ‘Benefit’ Advocacy Texts” at the Feminism & Breastfeeding Symposium in Chapel Hill, N.C., in March.

### Psychology

Assistant Professor Curtis Dunkel co-wrote “Convergent Validity of Measures of Life-History Strategy” for Personality & Individual Differences, and co-authored “Using Three Levels of Personality to Predict Time Perspective” for Current Psychology.

Associate Professor Sandra L. McFadden, Professor Russell E. Morgan (now an Associate Dean with the College of Arts & Sciences), and others presented “The Effect of 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid on Anxiety in the Rat” at the annual Neurobehavioral Toxicology and Teratology meeting in Kentucky.

Associate Professor Melanie Hetzel-Riggin co-wrote “To Dissociate or Suppress? Predicting Automatic vs. Conscious Cognitive Avoidance” for the Journal of Trauma & Dissociation. Also, Hetzel-Riggin and Jane Cavicchia (Director of WIU’s Women’s Center) received a grant of $300,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice for “Western Illinois University Relationship Violence Awareness and Prevention Initiative.”

Professor Kristine M. Kelly co-authored “Changes in Sources and Perceived Quality of Social Supports among Formerly Homeless Persons Receiving Assertive Community Treatment Services” for Community Mental Health Journal. Kelly, Professor Eugene W. Mathes, and another collaborated on “Christian Marriage as an Antidote to Partner Loss Jealousy” for the Journal of Psychology & Christianity.

Associate Professor Patricia An-
derson wrote “Human-Bird Interactions” in The Welfare of Domestic Fowl and Other Captive Birds (Springer).

Assistant Professor Laurian Bowles presented “Snap Writing, Look Me, Look You Too: Corporeal Images and Collaborative Photography with Kayayei in Ghana” at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in New Orleans in November.


Professor Heather McIlvainewsad is teaching Anthropology 379: Cultural Anthropology Field School May 16-29, in Celle and Berlin, Germany, as part of WIU’s Study Abroad program.

Associate Professor David E. Rohall co-wrote “American Undergraduate Attitudes Toward the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan: Trends and Variations” for The Routledge Handbook of War and Society: Iraq and Afghanistan (Routledge).

Assistant Professor Nancy Schaefer reviewed Exploring Religion and the Sacred in the Media Age for the Journal of Contemporary Religion, and wrote “The Sermon” for The Rockford Review.

Assistant Professor Craig Tollini wrote “A Comparison of Faculty Members’ and Students’ Definitions of Political Bias in the Classroom” for the International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology, and co-authored with Assistant Professor Jessica White “College Students’ Perceptions of Intelligent Design” for Evolution: Education & Outreach.


Women’s Studies

Associate Professor Lori Baker-Sperry presented research on WIU’s plan on the assessment of student learning with Associate Provost Judi Dallinger at the Annual Meeting of the Higher Learning Commission in April. Baker-Sperry and Dallinger also co-authored “Fits and Starts of Assessment: Twenty Years to Success!” in A Collection of Papers on Self-Study and Institutional Improvement, 2010: (North Central Association).

Assistant Professor Holly Stovall is traveling to Spain this summer to conduct interviews with members of the Spanish literary movement, the Gauche Divine, which existed during Franco’s reign. This research follows up on her dissertation on Spanish novelist Ana Marie Moix, who was the youngest member of that group.

Krista Bowers Sharpe and Jeanne Stierman from University Libraries contributed to this compilation.
As an English literature scholar, what authors do you most appreciate?
As an English scholar, I am familiar with and appreciate many authors’ works. However, if I must choose authors that I most appreciate, I select: Langston Hughes, Toni Morrison and John Milton.

Do you have any “guilty pleasure” books (hard-boiled mysteries, graphic novels...)?
I especially enjoy reading inspirational books. Currently, my favorite inspirational author is Joel Osteen. To date, I have read most of his books.

What are some pivotal memories of your youth in rural Alabama?
During my youth, I was very fortunate to have many opportunities to spend a great deal of quality time with my parents and my siblings. I am most grateful for a very close-knit family whom I could depend on at all times. Also, I have pleasant memories learning of my family history from the stories my mother, father and grandparents told me and my siblings.

We know that you really enjoy Macomb. What is a favorite getaway for you and your family?
My family and I really enjoy traveling to the Southern part of the United States to visit family and friends. However, we are particularly fond of traveling to the Caribbean islands.

Dr. Susan Martinelli-Fernandez